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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 814
Washington, DC 200554

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10-15-86

FX PARTE OR LATE FILED.

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt (& State Public Utility Commissioner & Members of Congress):

We/I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of this nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology needed to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. [Insert pertinent local information if so desired.]

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provision we/I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each communities needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

We/I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,

Jo Ellen Klein

*412 N. Vermont
Bell Rapids, 505702*

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CC: 96-45

October 11, 1996

It is clear that Congress is aware of this need. In passing this landmark legislation, Congress meant to ensure that carriers provide services to schools and libraries at discounted rates less than those charged other customers. However, the failure of Wisconsin's Universal Service Fund program makes federal discounted rates our last hope. The Universal Service Fund was suppose to ensure that schools in all areas of the state had access to advanced telecommunication technology at affordable rates. Unfortunately, it has actually helped to increase the disparity between those who have technology access and those who do not have access to advanced technology & telecommunications. Although Wisconsin's Universal Service Fund has a budget of over \$1.86 million for institutions, only \$15,075 has been used to date by institutions. The structure of the program prevents most of Wisconsin's schools and libraries from accessing these discounts. Please, do not let a similar structure be created on the federal level.

For all of the reasons cited above, I urge you to seize this historic opportunity and adopt a truly affordable, discounted "e-rate" to broaden the educational opportunities of every schoolchild and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,



Ken Cole
Executive Director
Wisconsin Association of School Boards

cc: Cheryl Parrino



St. Vincent's Academy
207 East Liberty Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

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96-45

SCHOOL OFFICE
PHONE 236-5508
FAX 236-7877

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NOV 7 1996

October 9, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 200554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC: Docket #96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology needed to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. This will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provision we ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to school and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each community's needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

We urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America,

Sincerely,

S. M. Joque Smith, R.S.M. Academic Dean
Antin Kilmer O'Leary, R.S.M. Finance Manager
Sister Pat Coward, R.S.M. Assistant Principal

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St. Vincent's Academy
207 East Liberty Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

SCHOOL OFFICE
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Other Faculty and Staff of Saint Vincent's Academy

Carmela Aliff Howard
Melinda B. Spencer
C. Nick Foley
Suzanne Butler
Frank Marshall
W. Ann Harder
Anne Jenkins
Joanne O. Best
Susan Barrett
Gary Dyer
Sandra Dyer
MaryAnn Jones
Sister Barbara Shinkens. O.P.

Jackson Elementary School

441 BURBANK AVENUE • JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN 53546

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October 22, 1996

*The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commissions
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554*

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NOV 7 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing in strong support of significant and affordable discounts for all schools and libraries so that students of every age can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year requires that a special rate for education - an "e-rate" - be created to enable education entities to secure affordable technology services.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the federal-state Joint Board implement the universal service provision, I am asking that you take steps to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates.

Schools need long term discounts that are affordable and flexible. Those discounts should offer a choice in determining which services best meet each community's needs. It is imperative that these services go beyond the school house door and directly into the classroom, lab, and work station.

Our school and school district is in the entry level stage through private donations and a, hopefully, successful referendum in February/1997 of being wired for technology. The end result will be that all students will have access to the internet.

CC: 96-45

Page 2

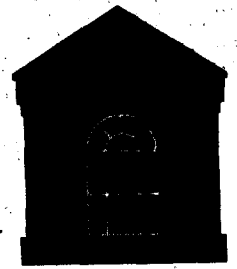
There will be countless benefits to connecting our students with technology. They will be more successful students, better workers, and more informed citizens. They will be better able to compete in a world that is becoming increasingly dependent upon technology.

This is an important issue. You have important decisions to make. I urge you to act on behalf of all the children that will benefit from your action.

Sincerely,

Jerry, Abb, Principal

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NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY

State of New Hampshire Department of Cultural Affairs / Division of Libraries
20 Park Street • Concord, New Hampshire 03301-6314
New Hampshire Automated Information Systems Board

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED October 21, 1996

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NOV 7 1996

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 814
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Hundt:

At the quarterly meeting of the New Hampshire Automated Information Systems Board, it was the unanimous decision of the Board to write in strong support of meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this landmark legislation, it is clear that Congress meant to ensure that, upon a bona fide request, a carrier must provide services to libraries and schools at a discounted rate, less than the amounts charged for similar services to other parties.

Libraries in New Hampshire need such an equity rate to enable the 232 public libraries to serve as community access points to the information infrastructure and to help these libraries provide the residents of New Hampshire with an expanded range of information opportunities for lifelong learning, work and career development, job hunts, and citizenship. This equity rate will spur library use of new technology and encourage development of new consumer markets while providing consumers with opportunity to gain new skills and technological literacy at their libraries.

To provide libraries with the flexibility to meet community needs, all telecommunications services available commercially, by tariff, or by contract should be available to them at a discount. Libraries need the capacity to support large numbers of simultaneous users and multi-media and high bandwidth applications. Libraries are increasingly the provider of local community electronic information. The New Hampshire Automated Information System has provided libraries with electronic access to a variety of resources including a statewide union catalog for more than 12 years. One of the most costly and limiting aspects of this statewide effort has been the cost and availability of telecommunications services. There continues to be huge disparities even in a state as small as New Hampshire.

Libraries are responsible and accountable users of technology; they have in the past and will continue to efficiently leverage all resources available to them, but libraries need affordable, discounted access to best serve the American public. Deeper discounts will also be necessary for libraries in high cost and rural areas, and in low income communities to reach "affordability".

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman

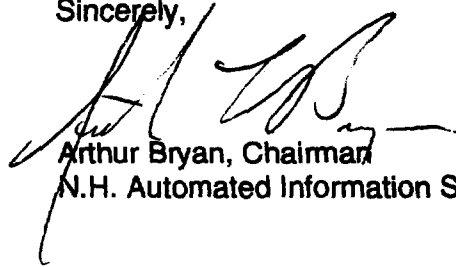
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October 21, 1996

We ask that you consider what libraries are telling you about their local needs, including the necessity of making any terms and conditions for an equity rate, simple and straight forward. We do not need to add to the costs of administration or local library budgets by onerous or complicated procedures to obtain a discounted rate.

We encourage you to assure universal service for all Americans by providing discounted and equitable telecommunications rate for libraries and schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Arthur Bryan', written over a horizontal line.

Arthur Bryan, Chairman

N.H. Automated Information Systems Board

AB:djr

CC Docket 96-45

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SAN MATEO PUBLIC LIBRARY
33 West Third Avenue
San Mateo, California 94402-1592

TELEPHONE (415) 377-4680
ADMINISTRATION (415) 377-4685
FAX (415) 344-0380

The Honorable Reed E Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street , NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Re: CC Docket 96-45 Universal Service

Dear Chairman Hundt:

1 August 1996

I am urging your strong support for discounted telecommunications rates for public libraries and schools to fulfill their role as universal service providers as authorized by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

I also served on the 1995 California Governor's Council on Information Technology and chaired the California Public Utilities Commission's Task Force on Telecommunications Infrastructure for K-12 schools and public libraries. We see the need to provide information technology services to the public in an equitable and economical manner. Libraries are forming unprecedented coalitions to achieve access, training and use of information technology resources.

One small example is the San Mateo Library's participation in Log on Day in April. With little publicity, to hold down the participants to a serviceable number, the introductory sessions throughout the day and evening were filled to capacity. Since that time, we have sought foundation funds to continue on going instruction. We are also working with the local high school district to use their adult school facilities for instruction. The Library is training volunteer instructors to leverage the paid staff time. This is truly a phenomenon that continues to build. We have been surprised that the over 200 people receiving instruction in the past four months defy the stereotypes of computer technology fans. We are seeing over fifty percent older adults (60 years or older) and a 40 % do not have a computer at home. Some are seeking more information before purchasing their own system, some will find the library access adequate. San Mateo has be able to offer free access in part because of a grant from the Pacific Telesis group to install a frame relay telecommunications system. Matching local funds are also used to build out the services.

I have seen the interest in access now and insuring the future economic vitality generate support from many quarters. Larry Ellison, CEO , of Oracle and co-chairman of the Governor's Council on Information Technology shares a story of donating computers to two schools, one in an affluent area and the other in a impoverished area. In the affluent area, the students interest motivated the parents to purchase 60 % more home computers. In the impoverished area, the

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schools computers were used by students and parents after school and in the evening, providing a safe community gathering place where none existed.

Use and the potential use of information technology has spurred interest and support of public libraries in general. The California Council's report "Getting Results" urges longer public hours for libraries and using schools and community centers for access. Last summer, San Mateo increased public hours through two grants and local tax funds. Library support initiatives are passing when voters can specify government services they want to enhance. Even expensive capital programs are being funded, in part because of the need to build facilities that can accommodate information technology.

Thank you for your consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Ouye", written over a horizontal line.

Kathleen G. Ouye
City Librarian

CC 95-415

101

Digital Concepts, Inc.

July 31, 1996

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. - Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Honorable Reed E. Hundt;

Enclosed you will find comments prepared for your consideration in the formulation of Universal Service rules as they relate to the provision of enhanced services to schools, libraries and health care providers. We believe schools and libraries do not need particular technologies, they need the ability to perform certain functions. It is the function that should receive universal support, not a particular technology from the incumbent service provider.

The Federal- State Joint Board is responsible for designing universal service funding applications in this evolving market to meet the needs of the customers and provide cost recovery for carriers. Internet connectivity, e-mail and broadcast curriculum options are available through alternative connectivity providers. Care in construction of universal service rules should be used to include alternative technologies, encourage cooperation, and provide enhanced service in a timely manner.

The incumbent service provider should be encouraged to find creative, timely solutions for connectivity through cooperation with lower cost technologies or face competition from same. The rules should encourage telephone service providers to work with alternative technology providers that are able to provide complementary connectivity solutions for school and libraries on a timely and economic basis. The cost advantages from alternative telephony functionalities should be promoted by the actions of the Joint Board.

The inclusion of technological options for universal service coverage will enhance the competitive market. Carriers face the concerns of capital deployment for limited returns for required services in high cost areas, while their competitors deploy in select lucrative markets. Carriers must avail themselves of technological opportunities for mandated customer service, and policy makers should empower alternative connectivity providers through access to universal service funding.

Thank you for your consideration in this most important matter.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Pingree
President

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